



THE GREBE

July/August 2006 Vol 1, No. 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 11 - MONTHLY MEETING** at 7 p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor Center (note the date change due to 4th of July holiday)
- **July 15 - WEED WARRIORS**, call Susan at 467-9278
- **July 18 - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** at 5 p.m. at the McGlinsky's (465-0404)
- **August 1 - MONTHLY MEETING** at 7 p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor Center
- **August 15 - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** at 5 p.m. at Noreen Tripp's (468-0402)
- **August 19 - WEED WARRIORS**, call Susan at 467-9278

"Friends" of the Refuge formed

If you've lived here even a few years, you are probably amazed at the growth in the valley. Once obscure and rural, Nampa is now Idaho's second largest city, with Caldwell not far behind.

Recently a group of Treasure Valley citizens came together to discuss the impact of this growth on Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to over 100 islands on the Snake River, the Nampa-Caldwell portion of the refuge contains more than 10,000 acres including Lake Lowell. With its location on the Pacific migratory flyway and its variety of habitat makes the

Refuge an important resting, wintering, and breeding area for waterfowl. Many different mammals and fish species also call the Refuge home.

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge group welcomes individuals and organizations who use the Refuge for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, and other recreation. Citizens who are concerned about the future of the Refuge or who just enjoy the educational programs at the regular monthly meetings are also welcome.

Entrance to Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge on Upper Embankment Road

Be assured, your voice will be heard. Joining the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge is an excellent way to stay involved and to protect the Refuge's future.

If you would like additional information about our support group, please call Cathy at 939-4830 or Lee and Al at 465-0404.



ACTION ALERT

A developer is requesting a permit to build 225 homes on 160 acres near the western boundary of the Refuge. The proposed development, if approved, will be located near the intersection of Marsing Road and Walker Lane. Currently this property is prime agriculture land.

More people means more water is used and more cars are on the road. Any devel-

opment brings more water use and traffic, but "spot zoning" such as this —building a subdivision in the middle of an agricultural area— is particularly bad for the environment. This development is outside any city impact area and its residents would not have nearby shopping or employment opportunities, so they would significantly increase traffic along Lakeshore Drive.

Please attend the hearing on Thursday, July 6th at 7 p.m. at the Canyon County Courthouse and/or send a letter expressing your views to the following address:

Canyon County Planning and Zoning Department
1115 Albany Street
Caldwell, ID 83606
FILE: Kastera LLC PU2005-4
(be sure to include the file number)

President's Corner

The Friends of DFWR group is up and flying. It's been fun being insiders on Refuge doings. We've had booths at Earth Fest in Boise and at Migratory Bird Day and BioBlitz at the Refuge, handing out information and letting the public know about us. Our members helped the Refuge in a variety of ways with these last two events. A few members also checked goose nests on the Refuge islands on the Boise River this spring during the annual nesting survey.

The Friends of DFWR have committees formed for Refuge projects, for gaining new members and for action to protect the land surrounding the refuge.

We've developed a logo, membership forms, and an information table in the lobby of the Refuge. We're also working on getting a brochure printed.

Along with other volunteer groups, we have people working at the Refuge Visitor Center on Saturdays to keep it open for the public.

One of the best side benefits of belonging to The Friends of DFWR is working and making friends with like minded people. I've been delighted with all the enthusiastic members from a variety of backgrounds volunteering in one way or another because of their love and appreciation of the Refuge.

Our major priorities this summer are to help our members and the public learn more about the Refuge and what it has to offer, to increase membership and income so we can expand our services, and to help the Refuge with projects.

We all share an appreciation of the Refuge and recognize the importance of keeping it a sanctuary for animals as well as people in this fast developing area. If you'd like to become a part of this interesting group, please give me a call (465-0404) and let me know what your interests are.

Lee McGlinsky, President

Fires concern the Refuge

Summer has just begun, but the Refuge has lost habitat due to human-caused fires. The first fire was at the entrance to the dam road on the east side of the

Upper Embankment Road. Fortunately, the fire was put out quickly and didn't cause much damage. But a larger fire at Gotts Point on the morning of June 28th threatened homes along Nez Pierce Road and burned 6 acres of juniper and Russian olive trees along with sage brush habitat. Fire fighters from Nampa, Caldwell, the Bureau of Land Management and the Refuge were called out to

extinguish the blaze. The source of this fire is still under investigation.

Sagebrush does not sprout after a fire, and this area will have to be replanted. Stands that are not replanted are susceptible to being invaded by annual grasses which are highly flammable.

The sagebrush habitat at the Refuge is home to deer, rabbits, squirrels, and various bird species.

Fire danger will remain high for the next few months so take precautions to protect the Refuge.

**Fire
damages
sagebrush
habitat at
Deer Flat
National
Wildlife
Refuge**



Sagebrush habitat burned at Gotts Point

Membership Committee

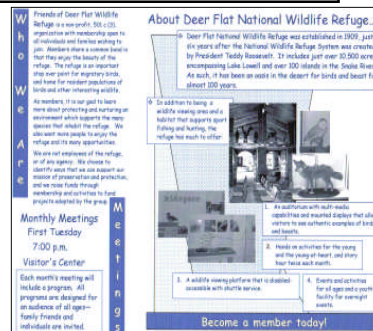
The Membership Committee has been quite busy designing membership applications, flyers, and brochures, aiming at our goal of increasing Friends of DFWR numbers. Approximately 50 people have crossed our doorstep one way or another; with 20 or 30 some having be-

come paid family or individual members.

We have tried several strategies for spreading our organization's name and purposes, talked with other organizations about their methods, and thought about cost effective ways of getting out our

message. Perhaps you have ideas to share?

What we most enjoy is working with others who are enthused about our cause. Maybe you know, and can bring, a friend who'd enjoy this too.



Friends of DFWR brochure

Fundraising Committee

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, along with its partners, will provide a competitive grant of \$1,500 to \$5,000 to an organization interested in assisting their local national wildlife refuge. They are requesting proposals for projects that assist organizations to be effective co-stewards of the natural resources within the National Refuge System.

In 2005, wildlife refuges hosted

more than **40 million** visitors. The refuges provide Americans the opportunity to connect with nature and offer unparalleled outdoor activities to experience wildlife. Where compatible with wildlife protection, the Wildlife Refuge System permits wildlife-dependent recreation uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education. This year's grant program will prioritize the proposals that facilitate

wildlife dependent recreational opportunities on refuges and reach new audiences to increase their understanding of and support for the Wildlife Refuge System.

The grant deadline is September 1, 2006. Grants applications will be accepted for proposals that fall within the following areas: 1) Start-up Grants to assist starting refuge Friends organizations, 2) Capacity Building Grants to strengthen the capacity of existing refuge Friends organizations, and 3) Project Specific Grants for non-profits seeking support for a specific project.

If you have experience writing grants, please contact Lee McGlinsky. We need your help.

Projects Committee

One of the first projects the Friends group is taking on is to open a gift shop at the Refuge visitor center. Many of the wildlife refuges across the country have gift shops which generate funds to finance projects or activities that benefit the refuge or the refuge visitors. We feel that the potential for success is

promising as many people like to buy mementos of a trip. The Deer Flat Refuge staff reports that they have had requests from visitors to purchase products that currently are not for sale. Our gift shop hopes to stock products made by local artisans. We have started the ground work for the gift shop by

contacting the Idaho State Tax Commission, researching merchandise sources, and are actively seeking contacts with other Friends groups. Connie Leavitt is on board to assist us, and we will be visiting local gift shops for ideas and inspiration. We welcome your ideas; call Cathy at 939-4830.

*"We hope
to stock
products
made by
local
artisans"*

A Big THANK YOU to...

- Mark McFall We are grateful for the fund raising efforts of Mark who worked to help fund the BioBlitz event and who continues to seek financial support for an AmeriCorps person who would follow in the wonderful work done by departing Lauren Giebler.

- Neil Thorne @ Thorne Printing has graciously given our group a substantial discount to help with our ongoing printing needs.
- Audubon's Golden Eagle Chapter which meets regularly in Boise has included an article in their June newsletter helping

their readers to become aware of our mission and encouraging their membership.



Executive Board:
President - Lee McGilinsky (465-0404)
Vice President - Noreen Tripp (468-0402)
Treasurer/Secretary - Kris Horton (461-9717)

13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE



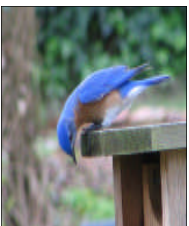
Upcoming Programs

July 11 - Al Larson

We look forward to hearing Al Larson, perhaps best known as Idaho's Mr. Bluebird.

Al has built and currently monitors the use of over 350 bird boxes, establishing "bluebird trails" for Mountain and Western Bluebirds in at least seven areas scattered from the Owyhees to Sage Hen to Cascade. To his added joy, Lake Lowell screech and saw-whet owls, kestrels and other species also benefit, sharing Al's boxes sized for wood ducks.

For 25 years now, Al has maintained these boxes, visiting most frequently during incubating seasons to band birds and to gather data about egg numbers, hatching, and fledgling success.



Western Bluebird checking out nestbox

August 1 - Lauren Giebler

Lauren will talk to us about her adventures as an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Refuge for the past 2 years. During Lauren's tenure at the refuge she implemented the BioBlitz (an Idaho first), succeeded in partnering to build a wildlife viewing platform, and helped instigate various educational programs.

After much deliberation, Lauren has decided to return to school in Colorado to obtain her master's degree.

This will be Lauren's last meeting with us, so join us as we tell her goodbye. We will miss her smile and enthusiasm but wish her much success in her future.



Wildlife viewing at the Refuge

On Sept. 5 - Todd Fenzl, Deputy Manager of the DFNWR

Todd will share his twenty years of experience here with us. (He says he knows where all the bodies are buried.) Todd will give us an interesting history of the Refuge and also tell us about some of the animals that live here.

If you're familiar with Todd's sense of humor you can expect to be entertained as he tells us stories about law enforcement, Refuge relations with other agencies, and dealing with the public. Todd has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since 1977 and worked at five refuges before settling happily in the West at the DFNWR. He has a BS in Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin, his home state.

Rather than having a question session at the end of his talk, Todd would like the audience to ask him questions throughout his program. Here's your opportunity to ask about our Refuge.